

THE END OF THE WORLD



By R. E. Finney, Jr.

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by

R. E. FINNEY, JR.

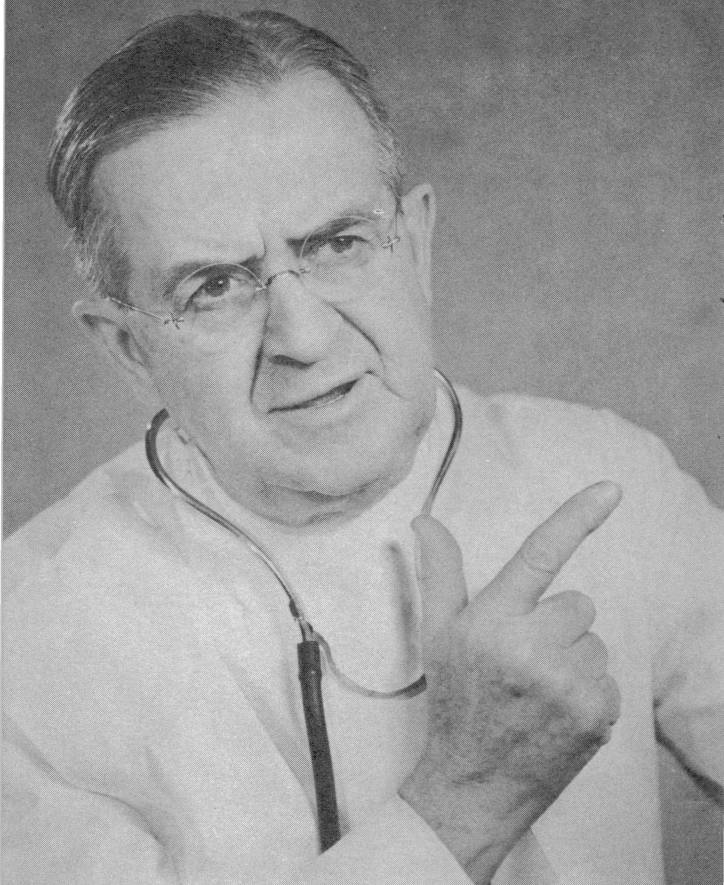


THE VOICE OF PROPHECY

Box 55

LOS ANGELES 53

CALIFORNIA



EWING GALLOWAY

All the resources of medical science and skill cannot defeat death.

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The Plight of the World

WITHOUT THE HOPE of Jesus' return to the earth in supernal glory, the Christian religion means little or nothing.

At every opportunity, my wife and I visit our parents; and these visits mean increasingly more as time goes on. We tell ourselves, often, that we shall not always have them with us; and the passing of each year makes our visits more urgent.

With sorrow we all see the heads of those we love, ever a little more bowed by the weight of the years; the lines in their faces deeper and more numerous; their steps slower and more uncertain; their eyes less keen, even with the best of glasses. Age makes unceasing inroads on one's strength. Memory itself becomes unreliable, especially when asked to recall comparatively recent events. "I remember things I did fifty years ago, but when I get down town I can't remember what I want to get," the elderly person says.

This is not all. The years make their imprint upon ourselves. We cannot pretend that all our faculties are undiminished, especially if we have passed the half-century mark. Too soon we realize that the apex of human strength and vigor comes early in life. All this is bad enough; but beyond the waning of our physical and mental powers, lies the stark expectation of death and the grave.

Recently a famous and wealthy woman died at an advanced age, eleven years after a stroke had left her in a coma from which she never rallied! For eleven years all the resources of medical science and skill had been combined to keep her alive. Were she less wealthy, she might not have lived so long, for she probably would not have received such expert care. But all her wealth could not keep her alive forever.

The doctor has not yet been born who can cheat death. In one sense, every medical doctor loses every case that comes to him. The best he can do is to postpone the inevitable defeat. "Wonder drugs," miracles of surgery, new discoveries in the field of diet, can only postpone death. They cannot defeat it.

This is why our opening sentence is true. Christ is precious to His followers all through their lives. Worship, prayer, the Bible, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit mean a great deal in the life of every devout Christian. But God placed in the Bible the promises of eternal life and glory, not as myths to be read and forgotten, but as certain rewards to those who should endure to the end. For these expected rewards the Christian strives and longs. If he understands the Bible aright, he knows they will be his when Jesus returns to this earth.

That is why Paul wrote: "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and *your faith is also vain.*" 1 Corinthians 15:13, 14. (Italics supplied.)

Christ *was* victorious over the grave. He was victorious that He might give victory to all His followers. This is why He could say: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:1-3.

Rightly understood, the Bible is one continued love story, whose hero is Jesus Christ. Satan is the villain who, in the beginning, tricked man into becoming his ally. The great climax of the Bible story — the story of salvation — will be the return of Jesus to this earth in power and glory. Then no more will old age defeat man's dreams; and never again will death snuff out the light of life.

I repeat that without confident hope in the great culmination of God's love for us, the Bible would be meaningless. Paul stated the case

well in 1 Corinthians 15:19: "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." Thinking men must agree with him.

Then thank God that there *will* be an end to the reign of sin and death. From beginning to end, the Bible is full of promise. We cannot believe the Bible and *disbelieve* in the return of Jesus. Even though in some churches it is seldom mentioned, and in others it is merely alluded to as something about which we have no reliable knowledge; the personal, visible return of Jesus is nonetheless a cardinal Bible doctrine.

When once the validity of the subject is recognized, it is amazing how full the Bible is of information regarding it. Let us together search and find, remembering the meaning of the promised events, to mankind and to the world itself.

First let us go back to the beginning. The Bible tells us that this world was created in beauty and perfection. Beholding His handiwork, "God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:31. In a world so perfect that today we have nothing with which to compare it, God placed the first man and the first woman. "And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil." Genesis 2:8, 9.

The divine plan was that in this perfect earth man and woman should dwell eternally in peace and happiness, and in direct communication with God and the hosts of heaven. Such an existence can hardly be imagined today. In fact, we cannot conceive of life itself as having no end, though it is clearly indicated that this is precisely what God intended.

How long man remained in his original state of perfection we do not know. The Bible is an exceedingly brief book, considering the "breadth, and length, and depth, and height" of

the subjects with which it deals. In the third chapter of Genesis is recorded the temptation of Adam and Eve by the serpent or Satan, and their fall. The entry of sin into the world immediately brought tragic changes. God never intended, nor does He now intend, to immortalize evil. A cold wind of death swept over earth's perfection when the first sin was committed, and changes in the status of man immediately became necessary.

"And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." Genesis 3:22-24.

Thus tragedy came to the earth that God had created perfect. The shadow of death fell across the world, and there it remains to this day. It is so universally about us, we can hardly imagine that it was not always this way. However, just as perfection on the earth came to an end, so death shall come to an end. "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." 1 Corinthians 15:26.

One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And Death shall be no more: Death,
thou shalt die!

—John Donne

God did not leave man in despair. While the sentence of physical death was immediately passed on all men, the loving heavenly Father offered hope to the sorrowing pair. It is interesting to note that the promise of pardon and eventual restoration was given before they were driven out of the garden.

God said to the serpent (Satan): "Because thou hast done this, . . . I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head,

and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:14, 15. God declared that between Satan and all humanity, spoken of here as "the woman," there should be continual enmity. Enmity would prevail also between the seed — followers and servants — of Satan and the Seed of the woman. Now the Bible teaches that in the plan of salvation, the Seed or Representative of mankind is Christ. So, when we read that this Seed should bruise the serpent's head, we are to understand that this means the eventual death of Satan, the author of death, and the death of death itself.

With the end of death will come the end of sin and its evil effects. God cannot be frustrated; His plans will be carried through. He was not surprised by Satan, He will not be defeated by Satan's efforts. In fact, God anticipated the tragedy of Eden, and even before it occurred, He planned to alleviate it. We find this in the Bible, in statements like this one in Revelation 13:8: "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him [Satan], whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (Italics supplied.)

Simply stated, this means that before God created this world He foresaw the possibility of the entry of sin, and that He and the Son then planned for the redemption of man and the world. ". . . Unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem." Micah 4:8. The first dominion referred to here is the earth in its original perfection, as first given to mankind. "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else." Isaiah 45:18.

It is thus apparent, if we accept the authority of the Bible, that the plan of God demands the return of Jesus to this earth, and that the earth cannot go on in endless sin and misery. It is not generally understood that the future history of man and the future history of this

earth are inseparably linked together. But the more we study the Bible, the more we shall be convinced that this is so. God created this earth for the dwellingplace of man, and that it will continue to be. "The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell there for ever." Psalm 37:29.

Before this earth can become the eternal home of immortal man, however, the earth itself must be re-created, even as man will be "changed." Then, "All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee." Psalm 145:10.

Now let us take a quick look back over what we have found thus far: God created this world perfect — beyond the present comprehension of sinful man. He created man perfect, likewise, and gave him the opportunity to live forever, on condition of implicit obedience. Before man sinned, and thereby brought inevitable deterioration to this earth, God had anticipated this fall and had covenanted with Christ to redeem both man and the earth. This earth will be the eternal dwelling of man; but before this can be, the earth must be cleansed of sin and restored to its original perfection.

In the words of Milton, these are "thoughts that wander through eternity."¹ We shall do well to ponder and investigate them thoroughly, and to learn their meaning to us. Through these events will come incalculable rewards of fellowship with God and His blessed Son, immeasurable happiness without blemish, and eternal life.

How much can we know about the return of Jesus? When will He come? Is there any way of knowing whether this blessed event is near or far off? These are only a few of the questions that we shall answer from the Bible in the following pages.

¹Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book II, line 148.

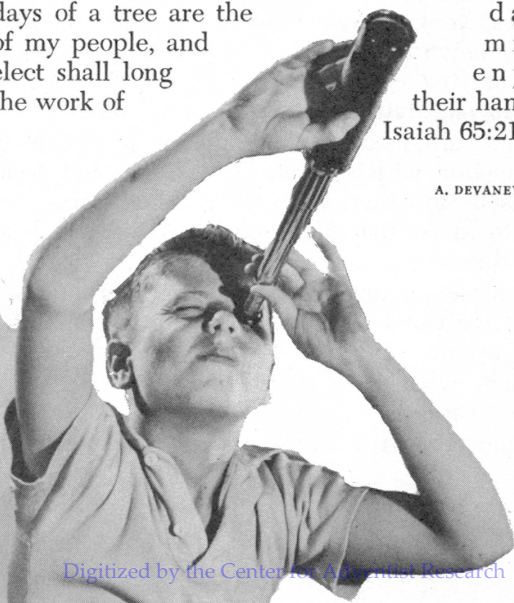
The Heavens Are Telling

IT IS STARTLING to realize that, as late as 1954, 40,000,000 refugees were still homeless, still wandering from place to place. Also, many people do not know that Armenians living near Damascus have been refugees since before the first World War, — more than forty years! When the writer was in Europe recently he visited refugee camps in West Germany. It was not a pleasant experience to see people crowded — in some cases two or more families to a room — in military barracks, waiting and hoping to find some way to make a living and thus to be able to afford a home.

In a sense, all humanity belong to the refugee class. This world as it is now is not the home God planned for mankind. Neither is it what He has in mind for the future of those who are faithful and obedient: "My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." Isaiah 32:18. "They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and the elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands."

Isaiah 65:21-22.

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But when will these blessings come to longing men and women? My wife and I have lived in thirty-three different places since we were married, for during much of the time we have been engaged in evangelistic work. We long for the time when we can settle down, and *know* that we can long enjoy the work of our hands.

"Yet a little while, and he that shall come will come." Hebrews 10:37. Then we shall have the answer to our desires, "above all that we ask or think"! Ephesians 3:20. God will not much longer delay what He has in mind for His people. Soon He will bring to an end all suffering and sorrow. Soon He will give His people a sure habitation. Soon Jesus is coming to bring rewards to His followers.

In the great prophecy Jesus Himself gave of His return, are these words: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world . . . , no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. . . . Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. . . .

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it [the coming of Jesus] is near, even at the doors." Matthew 24:21, 22, 29, 32, 33.

Here are mentioned a number of events in connection with the return of Jesus; and Jesus Himself says that when these things occur, we are to know that His return is "near, even at the doors."

Now let us analyze these scriptures, and see what we can learn about this all-important future event.

First, when, in history, are we to look for these events to occur? Leading up to the time compassed in the verses above, we have refer-

ence to a "great tribulation," exceedingly severe, and lasting a long time. Then, "immediately after the tribulation," a number of astronomical signs are predicted. If we can identify the time of tribulation, and then find out that the signs referred to occurred right after the close of the tribulation, we shall be assured that the time of Jesus' return is near.

Looking back through history, we find many periods of tribulation; but if we keep in mind that the Bible is a book about God and His people, we may eliminate some of them from consideration as a time of tribulation that seriously affected God's people. On this basis, many Bible scholars agree that the period known as the Dark Ages is the time of "great tribulation" referred to here.

The Dark Ages continued over 1200 years, during which fierce persecution took the lives of many millions of Christ's followers. Freedom of worship was virtually unknown in all the civilized (?) world. Even reading the Bible was considered a crime, and portions of the Scriptures were distributed by stealth and read in secret. Toward the end of this period began the dawn of what is known in church history as the Reformation, through which men gradually won freedom from persecution and freedom to worship as they felt they should. An outgrowth of this movement was the establishment of the early colonies in America, as people came from Europe seeking opportunity for freedom of worship. The establishment of these colonies accelerated the Reformation. The birth of the American nation opened up a whole continent to men who wanted religious freedom.

For the time being, let us take the birth of the United States as an approximate date for the occurrence of the signs under consideration. This means that we shall look for these signs around the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th century — 1800.

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened." Matthew 24:29. This is the first of the signs mentioned.

Do we find anything like this in history, at about the time indicated in the prophecy?

The answer is clear. On the 19th of May, 1780, in mid-morning, the sun was obscured and the day became dark as night. To this day, no one has made a satisfactory *scientific* explanation of this occurrence.

"Almost if not altogether alone, as the most mysterious and as yet unexplained phenomenon of its kind, . . . stands the dark day of May 19, 1780, — a most unaccountable darkening of the whole visible heavens and atmosphere in New England."¹

"In the morning the sun rose clear, but was soon overcast. The clouds became lowery, and from them, black and ominous, as they soon appeared, lightning flashed, thunder rolled, and a little rain fell. Toward nine o'clock, the clouds became thinner, and assumed a brassy or coppery appearance, and earth, rocks, trees, buildings, water, and persons were changed by this strange, unearthly light. A few minutes later, a heavy black cloud spread over the entire sky except a narrow rim at the horizon, and it was as dark as it usually is at nine o'clock on a summer evening.

"Fear, anxiety, and awe gradually filled the minds of the people; men returned from their labor in the fields; the carpenter left his tools, the blacksmith his forge, the tradesman his counter. Schools were dismissed, and tremblingly the children fled homeward. Travelers put up at the nearest farmhouse. 'What is coming?' queried every lip and heart. It seemed as if a hurricane was about to dash across the land, or as if it was the day of the consummation of all things. . . . The darkness was most dense shortly after eleven o'clock."²

"In most parts of the country it was so great in the daytime, that the people could not tell the hour by either watch or clock, nor dine, nor manage their domestic business, without the light of candles."³

Of the following night we have like accounts. An eye-witness wrote:

"I could not help conceiving at the time, that if every luminous body in the universe had been shrouded in impenetrable shades, or struck out of existence, the darkness could not have been more complete. . . . After midnight the darkness disappeared, and the moon, when first visible, had the appearance of blood."⁴

These are but a few of the many historical references which describe this fulfillment of the early prophecies of Jesus' coming. In addition to the darkening of the sun and the moon, the prophecy speaks of the stars' "falling from heaven." Let us look at evidences that this has taken place.

"Scientific study of the orbits of shooting stars began after the occurrence of the most brilliant meteoric shower on record, that of 13 November, 1833. This spectacle, which excited the greatest interest among all beholders and was looked upon with consternation by the ignorant, many of whom thought that the end of the world had come, was witnessed generally throughout North America, which happened to be the part of the earth facing the meteoric storm. Hundreds of thousands of shooting stars fell in the course of two or three hours. Some observers compared their number to the flakes of a snow-storm, or to the raindrops in a shower."⁵

"Probably the most remarkable of all the meteoric showers that have ever occurred was that of the Leonids, on the [night following] November 12, 1833. The number at some stations was estimated as high as 200,000 an hour for five or six hours. 'The sky was as full of them as it ever is of snowflakes in a storm,' and, as an old lady described it, looked 'like a gigantic umbrella.'"⁶

Let us look back, now, at what we have learned. The Bible tells us that after the "great tribulation" of the Dark Ages, the sun and moon would be darkened and the stars would fall. We have found the testimony of reliable witnesses that these things did occur. Yet another event is mentioned as a sign, that we should examine.

We shall note but two of many interesting references to this. First, Revelation 6:12, 13: "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth."

We shall not attempt here to discuss the "sixth seal," except to state that it includes a definite period in history. Here we find reference again to the darkening of the sun and moon and the falling of the stars. In connection with and preceding these signs, "a great earthquake" is mentioned.

The second reference we find in Matthew 24:7, leading up to the prediction of events we have already considered: "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Again we turn to the record of history, for confirmation of these predictions.

"Among the earth movements which in historic times have affected the kingdom of Portugal, that of Nov. 1, 1755, takes first rank; as it does also, in some respects, among all recorded earthquakes. The first shocks of this earthquake came without other warning than a deep sound of rumbling thunder, which appeared to proceed from beneath the ground, and it was immediately followed by a quaking which threw down almost the entire city. In six minutes sixty thousand persons perished."

"The Lisbon earthquake of Nov 1, 1755, appears to have put both the theologians and philosophers on the defensive. . . . At twenty minutes to ten that morning, Lisbon was firm and magnificent, on one of the most picturesque and commanding sites in the world, — a city of superb approach, placed precisely where every circumstance had concurred to say to the founders, Build here! In six minutes the city was in ruins. . . . Half the world felt the convulsion. . . . For many weeks, as we see in the letters and memoirs of that time, people in distant parts of Europe went to bed

in alarm, relieved in the morning to find that they had escaped the fate of Lisbon one night more.”⁸

Thus we find the historic reality of one more event linked with the beginning of “the time of the end.” Notice that the date 1755 places this event in the same period of history as the darkening of the sun and the moon, and the falling of the stars.

Matthew 24:7 speaks not of “a great earthquake,” but of “earthquakes, in divers places.” What of this?

A great many figures could be cited on this point. We shall note only a few: In the 17th century 37 earthquakes were recorded; in the 18th century, 640. But in the 19th century, after the beginning of the time of the end, more than 2,000! It should be kept in mind that earthquakes have been recorded from early times, and these higher figures do not mean merely increased efficiency in recording, but rather definite fulfillment of prophecy.

Thus we have verified the darkening of the sun and of the moon, the falling of the stars, the great Lisbon earthquake, and the general increase of earthquakes as having occurred according to prophecy, *in the period of history in which they were predicted to occur*. These things came not by accident or coincidence. They occurred in fulfillment of prophecy. Is this the sum of prophecies concerning the imminence of our Lord’s return? Far from it. We shall look further into this.

¹R. M. Devens, *Our First Century*, p. 89.

²*The Essex Antiquarian*, Salem, Mass., April, 1899 (vol. III, no. 4), pp. 53, 54.

³Dr. Wm. Gordon, *History of the Rise, Progress, and Establishment of the Independence of the U.S.A.*, vol. III, p. 57 (N.Y. 1789).

⁴Thomas, in *Massachusetts Spy; or, American Oracle of Liberty*, vol. X, no. 472 (May 25, 1780).

⁵*The Encyclopedia Americana*, article, “Shooting Stars.”

⁶A. C. Twining, in *American Journal of Science*, vol. XXVI (1834), p. 351.

⁷William H. Hobbs, *Earthquakes*, pp. 142, 143.

⁸James Parton, *Life of Voltaire*, vol. II, pp. 208, 209.

Knowledge Shall Be Increased

AS THE PROPHET DANIEL neared the end of setting down what had been given him by divine dictation, the Lord said to him: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:4.

Bible scholars interpret this prophecy in two ways: that general knowledge would be increased in the last days, and that knowledge and understanding of prophecy would be increased in the time of the end. Both interpretations have been and are being marvelously fulfilled.

The book of Daniel *was* a "sealed" book for many centuries. Parts of it, dealing with history and with prophecies that became history before the birth of Christ, were understood. But the main intent of the book was not made clear until modern times. Prophecies that gave special urgency to the proclamation of the soon coming of Christ were not understood and preached until the early eighteen hundreds. Notice that again the fulfillment began when the time of the end began.

Since that time knowledge of the Bible has increased phenomenally. Biblical problems in the field of chronology, for instance, that for centuries had defied the world's best minds, have been unraveled. When the great age of archaeology dawned, again and again the spade brought to light evidences from antiquity that made possible a new and fuller understanding of the Bible, and discomfited critics who had declared the Bible to be in error.

One of many such instances that may be found in any good book on archaeology and the Bible, has to do with the Hittites. The Bible repeatedly refers to the Hittites as a great nation; but for many years Bible critics claimed

that this was an error on the part of Bible writers — that such a nation never had been. Rather, they said, the Hittites were a small tribe of no real significance. Then archaeologists discovered, not that the Hittite nation was so *small* history had forgotten it, but that it was so *large* scholars had been unable to realize its territory could be so extensive. To puzzle scholars further, the Hittities habitually used several different languages: one for court procedure, another for business, and still others were used in other ways. These languages differed enough so that for many years no one believed they could have been used by the same people.

The fulfillment of this prophecy in its more general meaning is so apparent as to need little comment. However, let's look at a few facts, as presented in a speech delivered in June of 1958, by J. Lewis Powell, nationally known lecturer on technology:

“Let's go back to Nero's time to consider mankind's technical progress. We'll take as an index of man's progress the speed at which he can travel. Speed is a fairly good index of technological progress. If you are in a country that has ox-cart transportation, that's a pretty good index of the technology of the country. The same thing is true if they have railroads or DC-7's.

“How fast could a man go in Nero's time? He could go as fast as a horse could carry him or pull him, and no faster. Through the . . . years of man's previous history there has been little deviation. Man would have still gone only

H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS



as fast as a horse could carry him or pull him — up until 128 years ago. If Nero had a horse that could do 35 miles per hour, he had an oatburner that was indeed a winner!

“Moving through history, let’s go ahead 15 centuries from Nero to where Columbus discovered America. How fast could man travel in Columbus’ time? Whether he was the richest or the poorest man in the world made no difference. He could travel as fast as his horse could carry him, and no faster.

“Now let us go ahead to the year of 1776. It is a very historical year! In Paul Revere’s time history depended on the speed of an oatburner. American history could be made no faster than Paul Revere’s horse could gallop.

“In 1830 a tremendous thing happened. Unfortunately, there wasn’t a good journalist around to report it. This is the year when man broke the ‘oat barrier’ for the first time. . . . The iron horse came into existence. Now we’re on the upswing.

“In 1910 we bought the first military airplane. The contract provided that the plane must do 40 miles per hour or the contractor was to be discounted for each mile under 40. . . . For the taxpayers’ benefit this first airplane met every single term of the contract, making the incredible speed of 42 miles per hour.

“Around World War I, there were some speeds of 100 miles per hour. . . . Towards the end of World War I we had some speeds of 150 m.p.h. At the beginning of World War II, 200 miles per hour was ‘speed’ and at the end of World War II the fantastic speed of 470 miles per hour was top secret, but it had been done.

“A year ago the highest possible speed was 1,600 m.p.h. Today, with Sputniks, Explorers, Vanguard’s we are talking about speeds of 18,000 m.p.h. and space travel.”¹ And now satellites have been placed in orbit at over 24,000 m.p.h.

To be sure, Mr. Powell presents his facts in a rather light vein; nevertheless the statements are true and significant. The prophet wrote, “Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge



shall be increased.” As here set forth, his words are startlingly fulfilled. We quote further:

“Let’s go back and consider explosives. They started with the ancient Chinese invention of gunpowder. Passing through the years, there was achieved a bigger explosion by making a bigger pile of powder. Then there came the TNT’s, the nitroglycerine, the triple base explosives and all the rest of the plodding progress. We came all the way through World War II with what we thought was progress. Suddenly in 1945 somebody invented the ‘A’ bomb. This makes all previous explosive forces so ridiculous that you don’t even have a suitable unit of measurement. A ton of TNT equivalent used to be a unit of measure.

“A block buster, the biggest thing we had in World War II, was the equivalent of six tons of TNT; that was its rating. Along comes the ‘A’ bomb and a ton of TNT is about as useful a measure as an inch is to measure the distance from here to Hawaii. We must invent another word. So the boys invented the word ‘kilotons,’ meaning a thousand tons of TNT. But before anybody could write it, without having to look up how to spell it, somebody invented

the 'H' bomb which made the kiloton relatively obsolete. A kiloton now was as useful a unit of measure as ounces to weigh elephants.

"Now, you measure an 'H' bomb or nuclear device in terms of megatons. How much is a megaton? One megaton is the equivalent of 1,000,000 tons of TNT. This is not the size of a bomb—it is the unit of measurement. Now, how big is a megaton? Well, if you take a freight car 50 feet long with a 50-ton capacity, and you started loading every car to capacity and keep adding cars, when you had the other end of that freight train 200 miles away you have on board one megaton.

"Now, if you want to put this in terms of World War II, take the block buster bomb. This was the biggest thing we had in World War II. If you had 166,000 of them you still wouldn't quite have a megaton."²

Any thoughtful person will realize that the above paragraphs have dealt with only an infinitely small part of the fulfillment of this prophecy, but enough to prove that the prophecy has been and is still being dramatically fulfilled.

Why has science and invention come to flower and fruition only in the last century and a half? Was it because no preceding generation had sufficient intelligence to invent? What little we know of ancient civilizations denies such a suggestion. It has been said that the intelligence of "golden age" Greeks was of a higher order than that of the modern-time Englishman. Intelligence was there, but it was not put to work in the way that mental faculties are used today. Why not? Honestly, can you think of a satisfactory answer outside of Bible prophecy? The intellect was there; the ideas were there, in ancient times. Why were they not further developed?

"Schools, gymnasiums, arithmetic, geometry, history, rhetoric, physics, biology, anatomy, hygiene, therapy, cosmetics, poetry, music, tragedy, comedy, philosophy, theology, agnosticism, skepticism, stoicism, epicureanism, ethics, politics, idealism, philanthropy, cynicism, tyranny,

plutocracy, democracy: these are all Greek words for cultural forms seldom originated, but in many cases first matured for good or evil by the abounding energy of the Greeks.”³

Thus writes Will Durant of the ferment of ideas in ancient Greece. Yet Greece and its civilization died and were buried for many centuries, and even Greek ideas ceased to interest much of the world. It is not inconceivable that the Greeks could have brought about the industrial and scientific revolution—but they did not. The time was not ripe; the “hands” of the prophetic clock did not point to that hour.

Thus far we have considered two classes of signs that point to the turn of the 19th century as the beginning of the time of the end. One set of signs occurred far out of reach of mankind: the great earthquake, the darkening of the sun and the moon, the falling of the stars — were God-controlled, and occurred in harmony with prophecies that He had dictated.

The other signs are in a sense “man-made.” In another sense they are just as far beyond the control of man as were the first set. True, man has played an important part in them; but he has not chosen the *time* for them. That was in God’s hands, as surely as was the case with the first group.

Both classes of fulfillment strikingly point to *our age* as the time of the end; the time to expect fulfillment of the final prophecies; the time when every individual must make final preparation to meet the King of kings.

But does the Bible give any exact dates that have to do with the time of the end, and the second coming of Christ? We shall answer this in the next chapter.

¹J. Lewis Powell, “The Collapse of Time,” a speech delivered at the Keynote Luncheon of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association convention, June, 1958. Published in *Signal*, August, 1958.

²*Ibid.*

³Will Durant, “The Life of Greece,” page vii of the preface to *The Story of Civilization*, Part II. c1939



H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS

“A Day for a Year”

NAN has never walked right. She has a lovely face, bright and intelligent, with beautiful eyes, and fine naturally-wavy hair. I have watched her grow from preschool age to lively adolescence; and always she has limped, for she was born with a defective hip. She has had a number of operations, and has spent many weeks in bed in a cast. These have brought some improvement, but they have not cured. How many times it has wrung my heart to see her, cheerful and uncomplaining, always dragging that left foot.

It is sad indeed to see grown people hobbling about with infirmities; but to get the full impact of such things, visit a hospital for crippled children. Then you will surely feel that, in the words of Scripture, “an enemy hath done this.” Matthew 13:28.

Some day — not far off now — all the hospitals for children will be empty. In fact, there will be no hospitals, and no need for them. Nan and all her sisters-and-brothers-in-pain will be straight and whole. This is just one part of the measureless blessing God will give to humanity when Jesus comes. "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert." Isaiah 35:5, 6.

When? Are there any reliable dates in the Bible? Not for the exact time when Jesus will break through the clouds, bringing His rewards with Him — *that* is not given man to know. But there are dates which indicate the *exact period* in the earth's history when we are to look for Him.

About two thirds of earth's history took place before the birth of Christ, His life of 33 years, and His death on the cross to atone for the sins of all mankind. But any student of the Bible knows that salvation through the grace of God was available to man from Adam's fall in Eden and onward. It was available in the same way as it is today, except that before Christ came, men looked *forward in faith* to His atonement, and now *by faith* we look *back* to it.

But to teach men the plan of the gospel in Old Testament times, God instituted the tabernacle — later superseded by the temple — and its services as a dramatic object lesson to the people of Old Testament times. It is equally necessary for us to understand something of the tabernacle and its services because of their spiritual significance, and also because only by understanding them can we understand and appreciate one of the most important and exact of all Bible prophecies.

A sample of the ceremonies that went on at the tabernacle is given as follows: "And if any one of the common people sin through ignorance, while he doeth somewhat against any of the commandments of the Lord concerning

things which ought not to be done, and be guilty; or if his sin, which he hath sinned, come to his knowledge: then he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a female without blemish, for his sin which he hath sinned. And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering, and slay the sin offering in the place of the burnt offering. And the priest shall take of the blood thereof with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour out all the blood thereof at the bottom of the altar. . . . And the priest shall make an atonement for him, and it shall be forgiven him." Leviticus 4:27-31.

In time, the Hebrews became a large nation. If this is remembered, it will be apparent that a great many offerings must have been made from day to day. In each case, the sin was thus in symbol transferred from the sinner to the tabernacle. In certain cases some of the blood was caught in a bowl and carried into the tabernacle, and there sprinkled on the floor. This sort of ceremony went on day after day, throughout the year.

The symbolism went further than the day-to-day cleansing of the people from sin, however. A time is coming when all sin is to be done away, and before that time there is to be a judgment. In the tabernacle services this was symbolized by what is known as the *cleansing of the sanctuary*. This is described in the 16th chapter of Leviticus: "And he [Aaron] shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, . . . And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the Lord's lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. . . . Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, . . . and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: and he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness." Leviticus 16:5, 9, 15, 16.

This is a brief description of the ceremony of cleansing the sanctuary. The meaning of this ceremony is related thus: "And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, . . . on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the Lord." Leviticus 16:20, 30.

The cleansing of the sanctuary represented the removing of sin from the sanctuary and *from the people*. Thus, it was a symbol of the final judgment and of the final destruction of sin, successively.

With this background, let us now examine the prophecy which will give us the dates mentioned earlier in this chapter. This we find in the book of Daniel. We have not space to lead up to it in detail, but simply note that in the second, seventh, and eighth chapters, the prophet Daniel is given visions of the successive kingdoms of earth. Now Daniel was a captive in Babylon, and Jerusalem and its temple or sanctuary were in ruins. As these prophecies were opened to him, Daniel's chief concern was naturally for his own nation and for the restoration of the temple and its services. Because of this concern, God gave His faithful prophet an answer to his question, "How long?"

"And he [the angel] said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Daniel 8:14. Daniel naturally thought this was the answer to his longing to know the fate of the temple; but actually it was a prophecy of far greater significance. God had not forgotten His prophet, nor His temple; but He wished to tell Daniel — and us — more of the future than Daniel had been making his concern.

Reading on through chapter eight and into the first part of the ninth chapter, we find Daniel praying for wisdom that he might understand this prophecy. And in the ninth, God spoke to him, through the angel: "Yea whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the

beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding." Daniel 9:21, 22.

First, the matter uppermost in Daniel's mind: "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy." verse 24. Here a definite period of time was "determined" or allotted to "thy people," the Jews. Then, in verse 25, the angel spoke of Jerusalem: "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times."

This is a most important passage of Scripture. For one thing, it gives a starting point for the whole period of prophecy, the "going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem." But before this can mean much to us, we must learn something about the time system used in prophecy.

Here we have a standard of time measurement called "days." A knowledge of history shows us immediately that here the expression "days" does not mean literal days. If this were so, the entire prophecy would have been fulfilled many, many years ago. Furthermore the dates arrived at by such calculation would not at all fit the record of history, as we shall clearly see.

Then what does the word "days" mean? Remembering that prophecy is often given in symbolic language, we recognize that this is certainly true of most of the book of Daniel. In prophetic interpretation, what is known as the "year-day principle" has for many years been generally accepted by Bible scholars. There is scriptural as well as historic ground for this.

In a prophetic passage in Ezekiel is the definite statement, "I have appointed thee each day for a year." Ezekiel 4:6. Does the application of this principle to Daniel's prophecy "work out"? That is the prime proof of whether we are right or wrong in so doing.

The angel gave as the starting point "the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem." Where can we find this decree? In the seventh chapter of Ezra, beginning with verse 12: "Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time. I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee. . . . And to all the treasurers . . . whatsoever Ezra . . . shall require of you, it be done speedily. . . . Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done." This is the decree, and if your Bible has a standard chronology, you will find the date 457 B.C. is given for the decree.

We have not space here to discuss the accuracy of this date, yet it should be said in passing that much time and effort have established its accuracy beyond question.

Now we have a starting point. From the going forth of the commandment of Artaxerxes to "the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks." verse 25. Reducing these "weeks" to "days" or years, and adding the figures, we have the following:

7 weeks	=	49	prophetic days or literal years
62	"	=	434
—			
Total	=	483	

Since our period of time *begins* 457 years before the birth of Christ, we subtract 457 from the total of 483, which gives us 26 years elapsed time *after* Christ's birth. What is the significance of the year to which this calculation brings us? In the year 27 A.D. *Christ was baptized*, "anointed" by the Holy Spirit, and entered into His ministry. "And Jesus, when

he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him." Matthew 3:16. When Jesus began "preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God," He declared, "The time is fulfilled." What "time" did Jesus mean? The time of Daniel's prophecy.

Thus far we have considered only 69 of the 70 weeks of the first part of the prophecy — the 70 weeks that were "determined" upon the Jews. There is left one week of prophetic days, seven literal years. What occurred during this period?

The angel had said to Daniel, "And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: . . . and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease." Daniel 9:26, 27.

Jesus was baptized in Jordan in 27 A.D. History records that its greatest tragedy, the crucifixion of the Son of God, took place in A.D. 31, three and a half years — "in the midst of the week" — after His baptism!

Three and a half years are still left of the original seventh. "And he shall confirm the covenant [God's promise of a Redeemer for His people] with many for one week," the prophet wrote. So, according to Jesus' command, the disciples continued to give the gospel exclusively to the Jews for three and a half years after the crucifixion. Then savage and unrestrained persecution broke out against those who believed on Christ. Stephen was stoned to death, and "therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word." Acts 8:4. When was this dispersal of the Christians which sent them "every where preaching the word" to the Gentile world? History places it in A.D. 34—at the end of the seven-year period of confirming the covenant; which is also the end of the 70 weeks (490 years) that God had "determined upon" or allotted to His people.

We now have *three positive check points* that prove the correctness of our interpretation

of this prophecy: the baptism of Jesus, when He became the Anointed One, in A.D. 27; His crucifixion, when He was "cut off, but not for Himself, . . . in the midst of the week," in A.D. 31; the stoning of Stephen and the dispersal of the Christians from Jerusalem, in A.D. 34 — until which time the "confirmation of the covenant" continued [three and a half years] to round out the "determined" 70 weeks. How perfectly it all "fits together"!

Now let us check this against the *whole* prophetic period, and see where it brings us. "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed," said the angel. Beginning at our first date, 457 B.C., we have the following:

2300 prophetic days, literal years

- 457 " " " "
 before His birth

1843 elapsed years after His birth

The decree of Artaxerxes was given in the autumn of the year 457 B.C., therefore 2300 complete years would carry us over into the year 1844. At this time, the prophecy declares, the cleansing of the sanctuary was to begin. Remembering that the typical "cleansing" of the earthly sanctuary culminated the service of each year, we recognize that this cleansing at the end of the 2300 "days" — in 1844 A.D. — must refer to the beginning of the judgment or cleansing work in the heavenly sanctuary.

The important thing for us to realize is that we are now living in the time of the *judgment*, as well as in the time of the end. The year 1844 A.D. marks the end of the *last prophetic period in the Bible*. No more *time* prophecies remain to be fulfilled. The coming of Jesus is near — even at the doors!

Why World Tension?

MORE THAN HALF the people of the world will go to bed hungry tonight, we are told by students of world nutrition and economics. It is not a pleasant thought. To us opulent Americans who have too much to eat, it is almost incredible. We can express this disparity of abundance in another way. An estimated 174,000,000 Americans (6.3% of the world's population) possess

82%	of the world's	bath tubs
80%	" "	" hospital beds
71%	" "	" automobiles
52%	" "	" high school graduates
48%	" "	" radios
34%	" "	" meat
33%	" "	" railroads, — etc., etc.

One of the most desperate facts of our time — the time of the end — is that the world is becoming overcrowded. And this is a new thing. In 1844 the population of the entire world was only 850,000,000. It had changed little in the centuries of recorded history. Then came the industrial and scientific revolution, already mentioned — itself a fulfillment of prophecy. As a result of this revolution — more

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food produced, more cloth woven, more goods of all kinds available, and better understanding and utilization of means to lower the rates of disease and death — the world's population began to grow by leaps and bounds.

In less than 100 years the population of the earth more than doubled — 2,169,000,000 in 1939! During the latter half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th, the population of Europe alone almost tripled! By 1950 the world had a teeming population of 2,400,000,000; and we are told that now it has reached the staggering figure of 2,700,000,000! And the alarming thing is the *accelerated rate* of increase.

But figures mean little to us unless we *apply* them. Let us think of what this increase in population really means in several different countries. Holland has an average of 700 persons to the square mile; Belgium, over 800. In Japan the figure long ago passed the 2,500 mark for every square mile of arable land.

What do these figures mean? Let us assume that you are a farmer in Holland, where, at 700+ persons per square mile, you have a little less than one acre per person — since there are 640 acres in a square mile. You have a six-acre farm — not an unusual figure in such a country. Now, suppose you have four sons — six persons in your family — one person per acre. Your sons grow to manhood and all four want to be farmers. What will you do? Obviously you cannot divide your six acres of land among them and expect them to make a living for themselves and their future families; that would be impossible. And since your family already has its full proportion of the nationally available land, it would seem unlikely that you could find surplus land readily purchasable. This, in Holland. Belgium would be worse. Japan and other Oriental countries, fantastically worse.

Japan, for instance, has an area 16,000 square miles *less* than that of California; but while the population of California is 13,000,000, that of Japan is 90,000,000! Anyone who has visited southern California, especially, knows how congested it seems. But Japan has within its bor-

ders *more than six times* the density of population. Maryland and Holland have about the same land area; but Maryland — certainly not sparsely populated — has 2,700,000 persons, while Holland has over 11,000,000.

If you should visit some of these countries, you would see what overcrowding means. Farming is done on virtually a hand-operation level, for land is so scarce that every possible use must be made of it. In many northern European countries farming is intensive to a degree that would dismay most American truck gardeners. Terracing is done on every steep hillside that offers the least opportunity for it, and the terraces mount up from the valleys until sometimes sixty or more can be counted, one above another. All are familiar with Holland's continuous battle against the sea, pushing it back foot by foot in order to win more arable acres.

How many more millions of people can the world support? Opinions vary, but all agree that a limit is in sight, and that even the present overcrowding is a potent cause of tension.

It is not by accident that prophecies concerning the time of the end include predictions of international tension: "And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth." Revelation 11:18. Here we have a definite coupling of a time of wrath among the nations with the time of the end.

When Jesus' disciples asked Him about the time of the end, this was one of the first signs He mentioned: "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Matthew 24:6, 7.

Luke's record of the same conversation reads: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." Luke 21:25, 26.

The problem of population is well recognized by thoughtful people, and organizations have been set up to study it. Various solutions have been proposed, with little hope of success.

Julian Huxley, famous biologist, heads one such group. Recently he wrote: "If nothing is done to control this increase, mankind will drown in its own flood; or if you prefer a different metaphor, man will turn into the cancer of the planet.

"The most dangerous period lies in the next thirty or forty years. If nothing is done to bring down the rate of human increase during that time, mankind will find itself living in a world exposed to disastrous miseries, and charged with frustrations more explosive than any we can now envision."¹

We have already witnessed some results of this crowded condition. Japan's aggression of the 1930's and 1940's was at least partly due to her own overcrowding. Along with all Orientals, Japanese were denied entrance into the western world and Australia. They saw what they considered partial population vacuums in Manchuria and in Australia, and set out to acquire room for their people.

Similarly, when Hitler came to power in Germany, he used the same pretext for aggression — though it was not all pretext, for Germany currently has more than 450 persons per square mile. At any rate Hitler shouted the need for "lebensraum"—room for living—for the German people; and the worst war in history was touched off by this shibboleth.

One fantastic paradox of modern history is that in countries already crowded, the leaders urge their people to reproduce ever faster! This was true in Italy and in Germany; it is now

true in China, though already "bursting at the seams" with 650,000,000 people — almost one fourth of the human race. At the *present* rate of increase there will be a billion Chinese by 1980, which is not far off. If this birth rate continues or increases it will inevitably produce pressure that will explode in aggression.

Why do the nations act so irrationally in regard to such problems? Again we turn to the Bible for answer. "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Revelation 16:13, 14. This prophecy refers, of course, to the seven last plagues, and these plagues have not yet begun to fall; but surely there is evidence that the power of the evil one is at work among the leaders of the nations today, for nothing else could account for some of the things they do.

The dilemma of a perplexed world is strikingly expressed by Norman Cousins, editor of *The Saturday Review*:

"What is the most primitive idea ever entertained by the mind of man?

"Was it the notion that people were pursued by evil spirits and that these had to be cast out, whether through sacrifice of things or of human life?

"Was it the belief in many parts of the Western world . . . that the devil had his agents on earth, and that this evil had to be extirpated through human hanging or burning?

Was it the notion that man had divine sanction to spread his religion at the point of a sword, resulting in the spilled blood of millions of resisters and almost equal numbers of converts?

"These are astounding acts and beliefs, but it has remained for our own age to provide the most primitive and dangerous idea ever held by the mind of man. This is the idea that it

is somehow possible to preserve human civilization on this earth in the present condition of world anarchy. At a time when weapons of absolute destruction are poised for instant use, the bizarre belief exists that the human group can work its way out of the crisis through measures that have never succeeded in the past. And no mass delusion in history can begin to compare with the present spectacle of a world drifting toward a possible war of hydrogen bombs.”²

While we may not be in harmony with all the thoughts expressed in this quotation, we can agree with Mr. Cousins that the plight of the world is extremely dangerous; and with him we believe that the world’s problems cannot be solved by old, unsuccessful methods.

Surely, as never before in the history of the world, there is cause for “distress of nations, with perplexity.” Luke 1:25. The threat of these grave dangers is set forth by Carlos P. Romulo, in almost Biblical words of warning:

“IRBM stands for the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile. ICBM stands for the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. Each can be armed with a super-hydrogen warhead. NW stands for the Nuclear War that will surely come if these monsters are not soon controlled. BWCW stands for Biological Warfare and Chemical Warfare which would bring upon our planet the abomination of desolation. If these letters are mixed together by man’s folly, the triumph of hell on earth will follow — made by man, directed by man, aimed at man. This in very truth is the Alphabet of the Apocalypse.

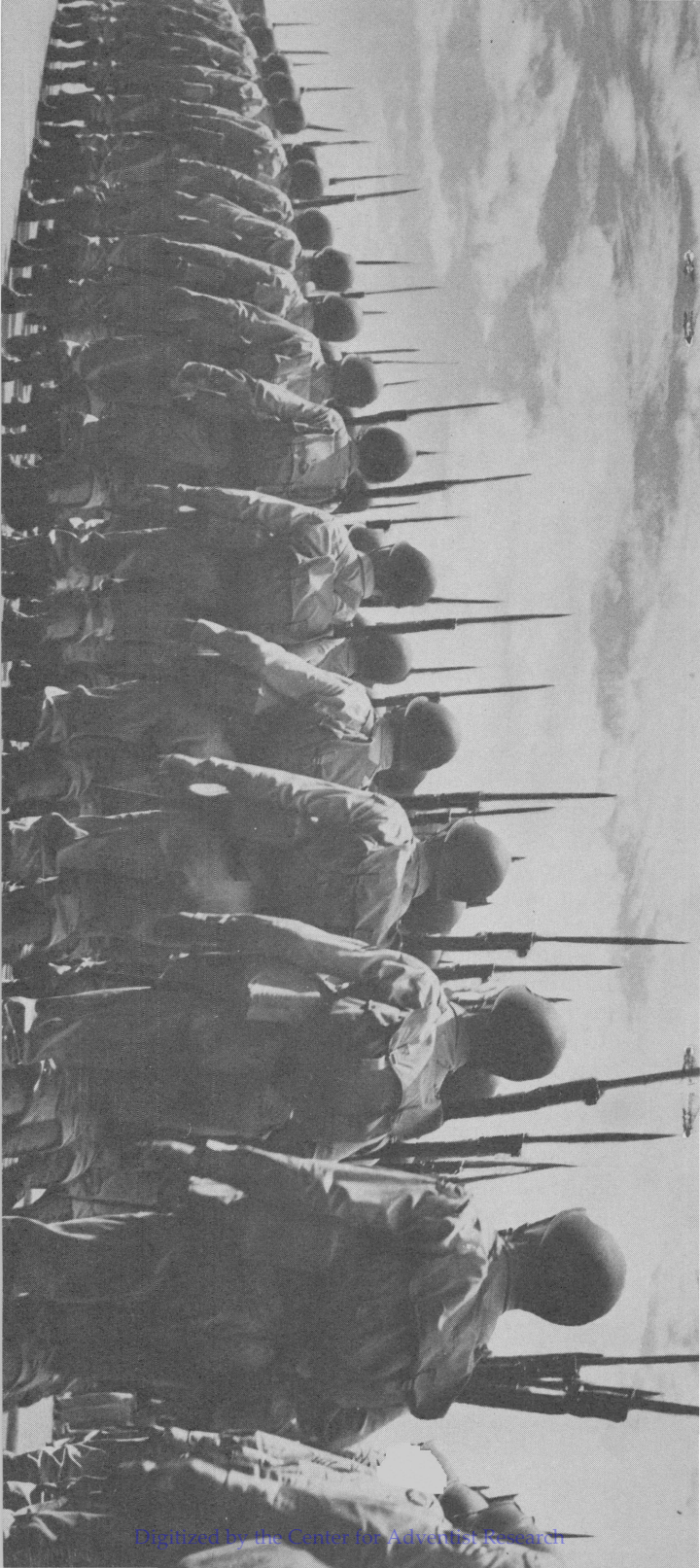
“Let me repeat: the world is a year or so away from a point of no return. Within that point we must answer the question, ‘Must destruction be our destiny?’”³

In answer, the Bible declares that destruction is the destiny of the world as it now is, but not the destiny of those who love the Lord and who wait with joy for His appearing.

¹Julian Huxley, in *The Scientific American*, March, 1956.

²Norman Cousins, in *Saturday Review*, August 15, 1953.

³Carlos P. Romulo, *Ibid.*, December 8, 1956, p. 26.



Will Wars Never Cease?

BUT of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3.

It would seem that no generation of men has so longed for peace as we of the 20th century. Yet, in direct and tragic fulfillment of Bible prophecy, no generation has been less successful in attaining it. However, let no one think that wars are *caused* by God or are in accordance with His will. Far from it. Remember that prophecy foretells not necessarily what God *wants* to happen, but what He *knows* will happen.

So, despite frantic efforts of men of good will, our age has been and is an age of war. Thus far in the 20th century there have been the Boxer Rebellion in China, the final phases of the Spanish-American War, the Boer War in Africa, uprisings and aggressions in Morocco, Tibet, Ireland, Central America, Cuba, Mexico, and many other areas in addition to the *major* wars.

In fact, we are becoming so accustomed to the presence of war on the earth that it no longer impresses us as it did. It is doubtful if you remember the War of the Grand Chaco in South America, and almost certain that you have forgotten the countries involved. Coming between the first and second World Wars, it got little attention from the average North American citizen. Yet that war inflicted 500,000 fatalities — about the same number as our Civil War, which all the world watched with great interest, and which threatened to destroy these United States. So calloused to war have we become!

Not many people realize that the peace-loving United States engaged in sixteen military actions between 1900 and 1933, an average of one every two years. Never has there been such a time of bloodshed and devastation. Since 1861, only one entire year has been without war somewhere in the world.

There is a sinister and devilish aspect to our age, particularly in its wars. They are not only increasing in frequency and extent; they are also more and more brutal. In this century we have seen nations thought to be highly civilized, drop the veneer of culture and revert to savagery.

Everyone is familiar with the awful destruction of the Jews in central Europe in the days of Nazism. When the Nazis gained control of Poland, they brutally murdered between three and four million Jews. In Warsaw alone they herded 45,000 Jews into the ghetto, then levelled it with artillery. Few escaped alive.

In Hungary the Jews were herded into cattle trains, 100 to a car, and shipped off to the gas chambers. Scenes of suffering and brutality that sicken the heart took place.

"In Nyiregyhaza, for example, they were driven, out of pure sadism, through streets broken up by the recent torrential rains. Children over a year old had to march at the same pace as the others, and this was enforced with whips. . . .

"Those who died were left in the cars, and so long as the trains were still in Hungary the doors remained sealed or, at the most, were only opened for a matter of minutes every few days."¹

Such calculated cruelty is hard to believe, but it took place. It is a matter of history. Surely only the "spirits of devils" could prompt men to such brutality.

When in Germany in 1955, I was taken to a large cemetery in Hamburg, where a great memorial has been erected to the memory of the thousands of victims of concentration camps. In the monument are hundreds of marble urns filled with the ashes of cremated Jews. The good people of Germany are ashamed of what

was done in the name of their nation, and this is one way in which they have tried to express their regret.

In Poland recently facts came to light that again shocked a world in danger of forgetting what the last World War should have taught. There are still living, it was disclosed, 53 women who had been used by German doctors for medical and surgical experiments. Originally hundreds were subjected to incredibly cruel experimental treatment. Some were operated on several times. Legs were opened and bones were shattered, then infected or contaminated foreign matter, such as glass was sewed into the wounds. This, it was said, was done to "test" medicines. Legs and even shoulders were amputated, to see if they could be grafted.

When these 53 pitiable women were brought to the attention of the American people, they were in abject poverty, existing on tiny pensions. No indemnity had ever been given them. Some have now been brought to this country, and efforts are being made to help them physically. These women are living witnesses to the savagery of the human heart without Christ, and to the brutality of modern war, when men are possessed by the spirits of devils.

If there still are those who believe in the "inherent goodness" of humanity, it would be well for them to recall some of these events of the last two or three decades. In these last years of earth's history we have been given fearful evidence of the fact that, unless directed by the indwelling Christ, the heart of man is desperately wicked.

Many Americans have mostly forgotten the early days of World War II when the Japanese were sweeping in triumph through the Pacific. It would be well for us all not to forget, and those who experienced the events of those days can never forget the dreadful concentration camps and the "death march" of Bataan when 14,000 Americans died in twelve awful days of forced marching. These are things that can never be forgotten by those who experienced them, and survived.

When men cry, "Peace," war still stalks the globe. Probably no generation in all history has expended so much time and effort to insure peace as has ours. With this in view, the United Nations organization, with all its elaborate machinery, was set up after World War II; and great hopes have been based on this project. That it has not been wholly successful is no fault of those men of good will who participate in its efforts to preserve peace.

The factors that work together to foment wars are not simple. We have already noted population growth as one prime factor. The rise of communism is another. Whether we individually think communism is good or bad, the fact remains that more than 900,000,000 of the world's people are now in communist-held territory — and the western non-communist powers are afraid of communism.

Another potent factor is nationalism, especially when combined with the element of racial differences. There is in our generation a tremendous awakening of the colored races, acutely aware that for centuries the world has been largely dominated by the white race. They are also aware that for the most part their standard of living is far lower than that of the white race, and they are no longer content to be "second class citizens"!

During the past few years we have seen the death struggles of colonialism — or imperialism as some prefer to call it. England, whose possessions once belted the globe, has seen her colonies, one by one, slip out of her grasp; some to become commonwealth partners in the British Empire, a few to become entirely independent of her.

These are not pleasant things to think about, but they *are* a fulfillment of prophecy; they *do* point to the urgency of our time, and to the nearness of the coming of our blessed Lord, when there shall be no more pain and no more death. Then everlasting peace will be a reality, and war and its memories will fade from our minds.

¹Alex Weissberg, "Desperate Mission," *Criterion*.

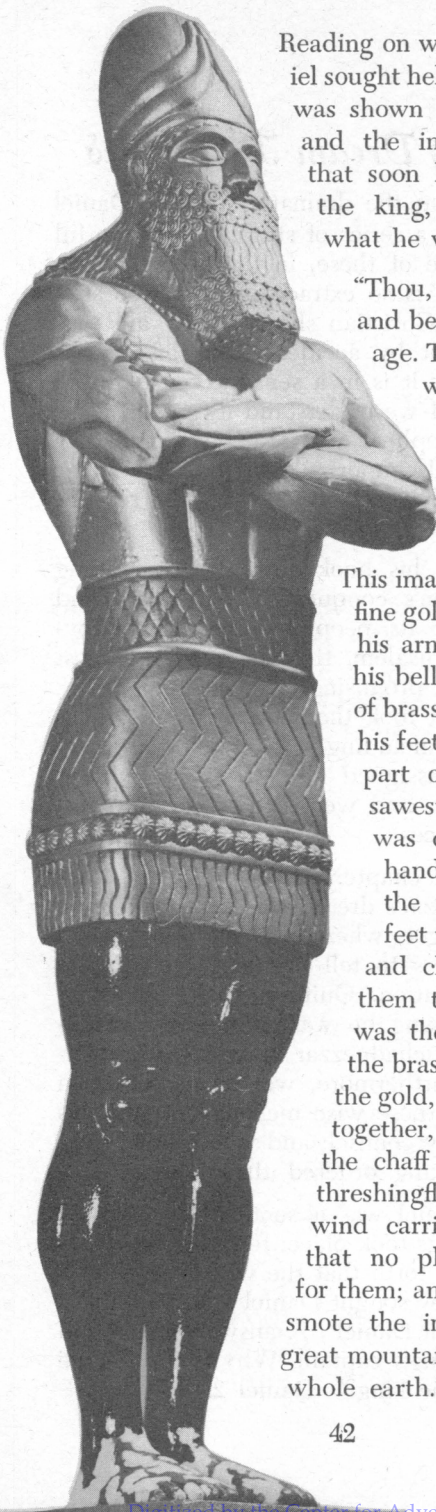
A King's Dream Interpreted

IN AND THROUGH the dramatic story of Daniel are recorded a series of striking and colorful prophecies. One of these, in the second chapter of the book, is so extraordinary yet so simple, that every Christian should know and understand it. Not by accident was this placed in the Bible, for it is in a sense a key to Bible prophecy; and if we understand it, much of the rest of Bible prophecy will also be understandable. Also, and important to our study, it speaks eloquently of our own day — the time of the end.

Daniel began his book with the fascinating story of Babylon's conquest of Jerusalem and the captivity of its people. When the Babylonians took Jerusalem, they selected the most intelligent and promising of the upper-class young men, and took them to Babylon; where some of them, including Daniel and his companions, were assigned to the court of King Nebuchadnezzar, and were given special training for its services.

In the second chapter, Daniel tells the story of Nebuchadnezzar's dream that "troubled" him, but that he forgot; whereupon he commanded his court advisers to tell him both the dream and its interpretation. Quite naturally the "wise men" told the king he was asking the impossible. But Nebuchadnezzar recognized no impossibilities. Furthermore, we may infer from the record that these wise men had not always given satisfactory counsel; and when they failed this time, the king ordered their execution.

Evidently Daniel was absent from the court when these things took place; for we read: "And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain. Then Daniel . . . answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king?" Daniel 2:13-15.



Reading on we find that Daniel sought help from God, and was shown both the dream and the interpretation, so that soon he came before the king, and told him what he wished to know.

“Thou, O king, sawest, and beheld a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee, and the form thereof was terrible.

This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, and his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them; and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.” Daniel 2:31-35.

We can be sure that by this time the king was listening intently, for he must have recognized that this was indeed what he had dreamed.

Daniel went on: "This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings; for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. . . . Thou art this head of gold." verse 38.

Thus the servant of God pointed out that this image was symbolic of a series of world empires, of which Babylon was the one then in existence. Ancient historians, such as Herodotus, describe Babylon as a city well represented by the head of gold. Here were the hanging gardens, listed as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Here was a highly civilized world capital, skillfully laid out and lavishly beautiful. Babylon has long been the archaeologists' treasure house of antiquity, and every aspirant to the ranks of accredited archaeologists must surely visit the site.

In East Berlin's Pergamum museum one can see the reconstructed walls of Babylon's Procession Avenue, built of the very tiles which German scientists labored for thirty years to salvage from old Babylon. The walls are lined with the lion symbols of Babylon, pictured in enameled tiles whose colors are as brilliant today as when Daniel looked upon them more than two and a half millenniums ago.

But back to Daniel's interpretation: "And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth." verse 39.

Notice that the words, "which shall bear rule over all the earth," plainly indicate that this prophecy deals *only* with *world* empires, that dominated the world known and civilized at the time of the prophecy, and for nearly a thousand years thereafter.

The kingdoms represented here are a matter of history. Babylon was overthrown by the dual kingdom, Medo-Persia, as graphically told in the fifth chapter of Daniel. Medo-Persia was in turn overthrown by the Greeks, under

the brilliant leadership of Alexander. Even then the wealth of Babylon was so great that the Greek soldiers carried away immense fortunes in gold and treasures.

World domination by the Greeks lasted only from 331 BC to 168 BC, when the irresistible legions of Rome made *her* the world power. "And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise." verse 40.

The genius of the Romans lay in superb organization and in governing with just enough control to maintain domination. The historian Gibbon wrote: "The arms of the republic, sometimes vanquished in battle, always victorious in war, advanced with rapid steps to the Euphrates, the Danube, the Rhine, and the ocean; and the images of gold, or silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome."¹

Iron is a fitting metal to represent the strength and endurance of the world kingdom of Rome. The Romans must have been confident that their kingdom would last, for they built well. Remarkably, some buildings *in use today* in the city of Rome were built during the time when Rome was a world power. Many more would still be usable had their outer coverings of marble not been stripped off to be used for other purposes. One can still travel throughout Italy on roads laid out and built by the early Romans, so well did they build. And their conquests can still be traced by the forts and walls and roads they build as far north as the British Isles. Surely Rome was a nation of iron.

But eventually Rome fell. As Will Durant has written. "Nations are born stoic and die epicurean,"² so it was with Rome. Gradually the empire became decadent, weakened by prosperity, easy living, and vice. The grip of government gradually loosened, and subject nations began to break away from Rome. In time the barbarian hordes from the north threatened the Eternal City itself.

Along a main street of Rome today is a rock wall, cut into the side of a low hill. Mounted on this wall are four great metal maps of the Roman empire, beginning with the time when it dominated the world. Each map shows the territory governed by Rome to be smaller, until, on the fourth map, all that is left is the city itself. This graphically illustrates the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, for it pictures exactly what occurred. Rome was not overcome by any one nation in a single battle or war. The "miry clay" of easy living and resulting decadence weakened the once-iron kingdom, until it broke in pieces of its own weight.

This is clearly represented in our prophecy: "And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken." verses 41, 42.

Some important things should be considered in relation to this part of the vision. First of all, it is plainly indicated here that there is *not to be a fifth* world empire, following Rome. Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome — all these were to be world empires, as plainly indicated by the imagery of the dream and by its interpretation in prophecy. For instance, verse 39 — "another third kingdom . . . which shall bear rule over all the earth."

Will there never be another world kingdom? If this vision is rightly understood to represent the future history of our world, to the end, the answer must be, Never. The scripture plainly states: "The kingdom shall be divided; . . . they shall mingle . . . : but they shall not cleave one to another, . . . And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed." verses 41-44.

In this marvelous prophecy we have the paradox that after the world had been dominated for centuries by one world power after another, a time would come when no longer would

one power be able to hold together the nations of the earth, until the coming of the King of kings.

The prophecy has stood unbroken since the decline and fall of the Roman Empire, though it has been challenged time and again. Twice in our own generation Europe has been on the brink of conquest by Germany. Particularly in the early days of World War II, when the seemingly invincible German armies stormed across Europe to stand defiantly on the beaches of the English Channel, it appeared inevitable that Europe would be united under one flag. Men of world affairs despaired as England braced herself for the onslaught. And then through a strange sequence of events — guided by an unseen hand — Hitler's legions were thwarted, time after time, until their plans for invasion of Great Britain were abandoned. A great storm when ordinarily the channel was calm; a fogless November and December on the channel, for the first time in the memory of man; a great undersea earthquake that caused disastrously high tides — these *unnatural* phenomena balked the Axis plans, and the prophecy stood sure!

We have not space here to consider the details of earlier attempts made by Charlemagne, Bonaparte, and others to build a fifth world empire. We only say in passing, what rivers of blood would not have flowed from millions of broken bodies had ambitious men read and understood this prophecy, and been willing to accept it!

But there is more than this to which we must give attention. One part of the prophecy remains unfulfilled! Four great world kingdoms rose and fell, and since the last one the world has been divided for almost two thousand years. What next?

“Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind car-

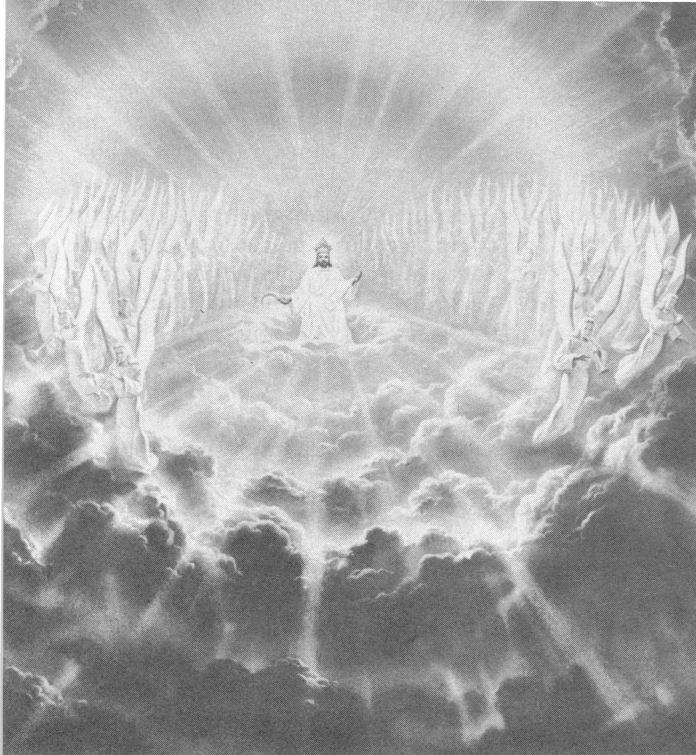
ried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." verses 34, 35.

This is the prophecy; and the interpretation is plain: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." verses 44, 45.

The glad news is that *the kingdom of God is next*, and it is not far off. Its establishment is the *only* part of the prophecy yet to be fulfilled. What a wonderful thing is prophecy! and how reassuring to know that it is "*certain*." As surely as Europe has never been reunited since the fall of the Roman Empire, so surely may we expect the establishment of the kingdom of God. Nay, a thousand times more sure! The promises of God cannot fail. "The dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure"; and we can shout, "Amen!"

¹Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, chapter 38, vol. 1, under "General Observations" at the close of the chapter.

²Will Durant, *The Life of Greece* (vol. 2, *The Story of Civilization*), p. 21.



Clyde Provonsha, *Artist*

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The Day of the Lord Will Come

SOME YEARS AGO I was traveling west in Canada, in the winter. I arrived in the evening at Calgary, Alberta, where I was to take the train to Vancouver, British Columbia. I had not been feeling well during the day, and was doubly tired. A Pullman car on which I had a reservation was on a siding, to be picked up by the westbound train later in the evening. Rather early in the evening I got on board and went to bed, falling asleep almost instantly. In spite of the various noises of the railroad yard, I slept soundly until daybreak, though as I awoke it seemed I had slept only a little while. I soon realized that the train was not moving, and rolled up the windowshade to look out. To my astonishment, the car was standing just where it had been when I went to sleep the evening before—the train from the east had not arrived! However, it did come in a short while, and we were on our way westward.

Had I stayed awake all night, awaiting the arrival of the train, it would have come no sooner. When it is very cold on the Canadian prairies, trains are often late; for when the temperature drops to forty or fifty degrees below zero, engines lose much of their efficiency. But trains do get through, in time if not on time.

Some are inclined to think that because our Lord has not yet come, He may *never* come. Such reasoning is just as foolish as if I had said to myself at midnight, "I do not think the train will ever come; it is three hours late already." But the train *was coming*. It did not arrive when I thought it should, but it came. Jesus may not come when we think He should, but He *will come*.

The Bible puts it thus: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9. You see, mankind does have something to do with the time of the coming of Christ. The gospel must be preached, and men must have opportunity to accept it. So God is "longsuffering," but He does not forget His promise. "But the day of the Lord *will come* as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." verse 10.

Now, it is important to know that the Lord will return, and to know something about the time of His return. It is important also to know as much as possible about the events that have to do with the coming of Jesus and the end of earth's history. The Lord Himself pointed out this need. "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth; behold, he is in the secret chambers, believe it not." Matthew 24:23-26.

Here is a clear warning that deceptions will be attempted. In my lifetime I have known of several movements which claimed that Christ was coming at some announced time, or indeed, that He was already here. No doubt you, too, can recall such claims. If we *know* what the Scriptures *really* teach about the closing events of earth's history, we shall not be disturbed or deceived by false doctrines.

Actually, the Bible sets these things forth in remarkably clear fashion. Let us look at a passage of Scripture that lists the events *in order*.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Consecutive events are set forth here:

1. Coming of Christ — "the Lord himself shall descend from heaven . . ."
2. Resurrection of sleeping righteous — "the dead in Christ shall rise first . . ."
3. Ascent of righteous living — "we which are alive . . . shall be caught up . . ."

Here is pictured a great reunion "in the clouds" — of the righteous who have died and the righteous who are living when Jesus comes, "to meet the Lord in the air," and to be ever with Him.

Where will they be with the Lord? Jesus said, "I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

John 14:3. The righteous will go to heaven, the home of Jesus, where are the mansions He went to prepare for them when He ascended from this earth after His resurrection. In prophetic vision John saw the saints: "A great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands." Revelation 7:9. Again: "I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: . . . and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." Revelation 20:4.

Is this "heaven" to be the eternal home of the righteous? Many people believe it is; but that is not what the Bible says. John was shown what will take place, and he wrote the vision so that we, too, might know. "And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." Revelation 21:10.

Other scriptures plainly show that the people whom Christ takes to heaven with Him after His second coming, will be with Him in the holy city when it descends "out of heaven from God." Where will it come? In the vision, John saw it coming toward him, toward this earth. This is in harmony with other texts which we shall consider as we proceed.

Thus far we have considered only the righteous — those who are living on the earth when Jesus comes, and those who are resurrected at that time. Meantime, what has been the experience of the wicked leading up to and during these events? Let us go back and see.

Revelation 16 predicts the falling of the seven last plagues. This will be a terrible time for those who have neglected to accept Christ, and many of them will die. The climax of this period is recorded in verses 17-21: "And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such

as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city [Babylon] was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babyon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great."

The wicked people still living on the earth after the last plague has fallen will see Christ come in glory; but they will not "be glad and rejoice" at that sight, for to them it will mean death. Before sin entered the heart of man it was possible for him to communicate with God face to face, as one talks with his friend. But after Adam and Eve had sinned, they "hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden." Genesis 3:8. From that time on it has been impossible for man to look upon God and live, for sin cannot endure the sight of the holy God. Moses said to God: "I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live." Exodus 33:18-20.

The complete and final destruction of the wicked is described in several Scripture texts: "and to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.

"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and

island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and the rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:14-17.

The book of Revelation should be studied far more than it is. It records God's abhorrence of sin and His final dealing with unrepentant sinners. It also records God's love for men, His "longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish," and the incomparable and incomprehensible rewards He offers to those who will accept His plan of redemption through His Son Jesus Christ. If only people would study to know and understand the book of Revelation, multitudes would turn from "sin's delusive snare" and accept Jesus as their Saviour. May this be *your* experience.

It is important to understand that the same Jesus who brings joy and salvation to the righteous, brings final death to the wicked. Sin — unrepented of, unconfessed, and therefore unforgiven sin — makes the difference. A man may stand unharmed on a steel plate carrying a million volts of electricity, if he is wearing shoes that are properly insulated. But if somehow a strand of metal should extend through those shoes, between the electrified plate and his flesh, he would die instantly. Just so, sin is the short-circuiting element that brings death to the sinner. When sin is finally destroyed, "by the brightness of His coming," those who cling to sin will be destroyed with it.

When all human sinners are dead, what of Satan, the original sinner? "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the na-

tions no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season." Revelation 20:1-3.

Exactly where will this "bottomless pit" be? The Greek word used here is *abussos*, rather literally translated abyss. The Septuagint version of the Old Testament uses this same word *abussos* in Genesis 1:2, which appears in the King James Version as "without form, and void." It well describes the condition of the earth after the devastation wrought by the plagues and the earthquakes, floods, fires, and upheavals attending the second coming of Christ. Jeremiah also describes the earth at this time: "I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by His fierce anger." Jeremiah 4:23-26.

Isaiah's language in this connection is also revealing: "It shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited." Isaiah 24:21, 22.

The picture now before us is that of an earth ravaged by sin and the catastrophic events of the seven last plagues and the coming of Christ. In the earth will be the bodies of the wicked of all ages—for they will not be resurrected by the coming of Jesus. On the surface of the earth will be strewn the bodies of the wicked who were alive when the Lord came for His own and who will have been killed by the fire of His presence. In the prison house of this dead and blasted earth Satan will be "bound" for a thousand years, to contemplate the fruitage of his program of sin—death. How truly Paul wrote, "The wages of sin is death"! Romans 6:23.

But what is to follow? That we shall discuss in our next chapter.

Before the 1000 Years? or After?



BUT THE REST of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." Revelation

20:5. These are ominous words. Of the righteous who will have been resurrected at Jesus' appearing and have gone home to heaven with Him, the prophet John had just written: "They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." The "rest of the dead," then, must refer to the unrighteous who will not have heard the voice of the Archangel from their graves, and the wicked who will have been killed by the brightness of Jesus' coming.

What does the prophet mean, "Lived not again *until* the thousand years were finished"? The Bible makes it plain that the wicked also are to be resurrected, but in a different and later resurrection. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which *all* that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28, 29.

There are some things worse than death. Resurrection is one of them, *if* it be "the resurrection of damnation."

We find another preview of this terrible event recorded in Revelation 20:7, 8: "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea."

During the thousand years the myriads of the lost will have been dead, so it is apparent here that at the end of the thousand years the wicked will have been resurrected. Then "Satan shall be loosed . . . and shall go out to deceive the na-

tions." What will be his final deception? "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city." verse 9.

You will remember that in chapter eight of Revelation John wrote of seeing the New Jerusalem coming down to this earth. Now Satan will rally the almost-innumerable host and persuade them to believe that they can capture the holy city and wrest it from Christ and the host of the saved.

The entire population of earth, from Eden on through all the sin-stained history of mankind will be gathered together for this last great rendezvous. This is an appointment that you and I must keep, whether we "will" or not. This invitation none may refuse. All will be there.

You and I may have met sometime, in some remote corner of the earth, or on a busy street not far from where we now live. We shall meet again, before the throne of God. We may be "too busy" here and now to think much about God and eternal things. We shall not be too busy to keep that fateful appointment.

We shall be there, somewhere in the picture. The question of *where* we shall be we are now determining, each for himself. We *can* choose where we shall be. It is our blood-bought privilege to be in the jasper-walled city of God, in the company of the lovely Jesus, within the circle of His protecting power. Or we may be with the lust-maddened throng on the burned and blasted earth, under the devilish command of Satan. Inside the city will be perfect peace and joy; outside will be unspeakable horror and despair. Where will you and I be in that day?

The curtain is about to rise on the grand finale of earth's titanic drama. "And they [the wicked] went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." Revelation 20:9.

This will be the *second* and final death. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath

no power. . . .” verse 6. Death is always a terrible thing, and it had no place in God’s original plan for man. But infinitely more terrible will be the *second* death. Remember, all those who are finally lost will already have died once — multitudes through the centuries of earth’s history, other millions at Jesus’ second coming. Now they will die again — for eternity.*

How wonderful to know that the door of God’s mercy is still open, that He still pleads with us to find the refuge from evil. “Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth . . . ; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord’s anger.” Zephaniah 2:3.

At the close of the thousand years, sin and sinners will be totally and forever destroyed. Then God will carry through His original plan for this earth, so long interrupted and delayed by sin. “The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” 2 Peter 3:10-13.

Then God will “create new heavens and a new earth: and the former things shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. . . . And they shall build

*For a complete study of this part of the subject of the final end of the wicked, we recommend one of the Voice of Prophecy Bible correspondence courses.

houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. . . . for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord." Isaiah 65:17-19; 21-25.

This is what God is waiting and longing to do for us. As John watched the scroll of the future unroll, he was doubtless often saddened by what God showed him was yet to be. But as the end of the prophecy drew near, the prophet was privileged to write of the final triumph of God and His people. "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. . . . And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful." Revelation 21:1-5.

Pages could be filled with God's promises of the wonderful things He will do for His people in this earth-made-new. The important thing to remember is that the promises are sure, and the rewards will be *real*. In the new earth we shall be as Adam was. We shall be real people, in a real world, doing real things. We shall be perfect in our sphere, even as God is

perfect in His sphere. No sin will ever enter to mar the perfect new earth.

Another important matter about which we should be informed, is the *manner* of Christ's coming. Every good thing that God has planned and brought to light has been or will be counterfeited by Satan. This is true also of the second coming of the Lord. The Bible says: "Then if any man shall say unto you Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not." Matthew 24:23-26.

The record is clear, and it has been proven true. There have been deceptions in the past; counterfeit Christs have deceived people in many parts of the earth. Greater deceptions will yet occur. Even as I write these words, newspapers carry the story of a group of people who are making preparations for the imminent return of Jesus. *Jesus is coming soon*, make no mistake about that; but these unfortunate people are basing their actions upon unsound interpretations of Bible prophecies. It would be natural for one who has thus been deceived to think that since one "Christ" proved false and his "coming" a delusion, there is no *true* Christ who *will really come*. Satan does not care *how* people are deceived; his aim is to thwart the purpose of God for the salvation of men — and to him this "end" justifies *any* means.

Knowing that deceptions would be common, God has made the Bible record clear for all who will read. There can be no misunderstanding of the record of Christ's ascension: "When he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, *shall so come in like*

manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-11. (Italics supplied.)

Note that the disciples saw Jesus go into heaven. The angels said He would come again *in like manner* — visibly — so that we can see Him come. He will come in great glory; not in any secret manner. "For the Son of man shall come *in the glory of his Father with his angels.*" Matthew 16:27. "Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming *in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*" Matthew 24:30. "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when *he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.*" Luke 9:26. "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and *all the holy angels with him,* then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory." Matthew 25:31. (All Italics supplied.)

Here we have positive statements that the coming of Jesus will be visible — an event of indescribable glory that cannot possibly be ignored. This is borne out also by the testimony of Revelation: "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and *every eye shall see him, and they also which first.*" 1 Thessalonians 4:16. (Italics supplied.)

Jesus' coming will also be audible. "The Lord himself shall descend from heaven *with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God:* and the dead in Christ shall rise first." 1 Thessalonians 4:16. Italics supplied.

These and many other texts give ample specifications so that no serious student of the Bible should be misled. But we need to understand these specifications, and to have them firmly in mind. A sound, systematic study of the Bible is the duty of every Christian; and if it is intelligently carried through, none need be deceived. God has not neglected to make the way of salvation sure and plain. Upon this subject of the ultimate triumph of good and the final and utter end of evil — surely one of the grandest and most important in the whole Bible, — we should be thoroughly informed.

Prophecy and a People

MANY PROPHECIES of the times just before Jesus' return foretell calamity and evil. This is not God's purpose, but we must remember that prophecy is the record of events and conditions that God *knows will be*, not necessarily what He wishes. But in several different parts of the Bible we find reference to one line of prophecy concerning the second advent that is both pleasant and encouraging.

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Revelation 14:6, 7. The eighth and ninth verses picture two more angels, proclaiming additional, related messages.

Since these messages deal with conditions and events near the end of time, we know that their "going" will be near the close of earth's history. There are other similar indications of a powerful gospel movement at this time. Revelation 18:1, 2: "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice. . . ."

When Jesus Himself was here He declared: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached *in all the world for a witness unto all nations*; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14. This is one of the most definite and positive prophecies in all the Bible. Jesus promised that when the conditions it outlines are fulfilled, *the end will come*. But we need to be sure we understand *what* Jesus said. Notice carefully that He did not say the whole world would be converted; He said only that the "gos-

pel . . . *shall be preached* in all the world *for a witness.*" (All Italics supplied.)

To maintain that this indicates the *conversion of the world* would make the Bible contradict itself. In the parable of the wheat and the tares (Matthew 13:38, 39, 40), Jesus indicated that many wicked people would be living on the earth until the end of time: "The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; the enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is *the end of the world*; and the reapers are the angels." "*Let both grow together until the harvest*: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn." (Italics supplied.)

These verses certainly do not foretell the conversion of the world. To the contrary, Paul indicated in his second epistle to Timothy (3:1-13), what would be the tenor of our times: "In the last days *perilous* times shall come. . . . *Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse*, deceiving and being deceived." (Italics supplied.)

It is sad to think that many will "resist the truth"; but it is heartening to know that the gospel *will* belt the globe and give all nations the *opportunity* to hear the good news of salvation.

We have learned here not only that a message will go to the world; but that certain *specific* messages are to be proclaimed, including the prophecies outlined in foregoing chapters. When Jesus said, "this gospel of the kingdom," He did not mean a vague though heartening presentation of the gospel story, as it has been preached through the ages. He meant *the* gospel of the *imminent return* of the Son of God to bring an end to sin and to set up on this earth the everlasting kingdom of God.

In vision John heard the first angel saying, "The hour of his judgment *is come.*" (Italics supplied.) In other words, the gospel that Jesus said was to be preached "into all the world for a witness," was a definite message for a

definite time and could not be preached until it was due.

Is such a message being preached? and is it going to "all the world"? The answer is, Yes. Just such a movement as is called for in these prophecies did begin with the proclamation of the judgment prophecy — the cleansing of the sanctuary, which was to commence in 1844. In fact the Voice of Prophecy broadcast through which you secured this book is a part of this final gospel movement.

Let us note the progress being made in fulfilling the task assigned. Though this last-day proclamation of the gospel in its fullness began only a little over a century ago, it came to life vigorously. In many parts of the world, devout students of the Bible began to realize that once again God's prophetic clock was about to strike — and for the last time! In South America, in England, in North America, in continental Europe — especially Germany and the Scandinavian countries — and in other parts of the world, men of different denominations began to preach the time of the end.

Notable among those who spread the news of the soon-coming Saviour was Dr. Joseph Wolff, a converted Jew. Wolff was an intrepid traveler, and a man of note in his day. Among other noteworthy places, he preached the second advent in the United States Congress, where he was granted time to explain the prophecies.

A few years ago I was visiting with a fellow minister recently returned from several years' missionary service in the Middle East. He showed me a small Bible that a Christian native had sold to him for fifty cents. The man from whom he obtained the Bible had inherited it from his father's family, in whose possession it had been for many years. On the flyleaf was the signature of Joseph Wolff and the date — more than 100 years ago. For a few moments I held in my hands a mute yet eloquent testimony to the fact that prophecy had been fulfilled by this fearless Christian on his mission to Mohammedan lands, even as I had read about it in church history.

Today the message is global in its scope. Seventh-day Adventists, lineal descendants of the early heralds of Jesus' coming, carry on an aggressive and wide-spread campaign to fulfill the gospel commission. The United Nations lists 208 countries of the world, and Seventh-day Adventists now have established work in 185 of them! Within the borders of these 185 countries live 98.64% of the world's population. Only 23 countries of the world are yet unentered.

In many lands a good solid framework of organization exists. To illustrate: The latest world-wide figures available are for 1957, when 12,291 Seventh-day Adventist churches were reported, of which only 3,103 were in the United States. Of the 1,102,910 members at that time, 794,215 — more than two thirds — were outside of North America.

Every available facility for spreading the gospel is used by this denomination. To bring up its children with a saving knowledge of Bible truth, 4,672 elementary schools and 278 secondary schools, junior and senior colleges, and graduate schools were then in operation. Mostly from these schools have come the 45,930 persons who give full-time service to the evangelistic or institutional work of the church. In 1957, 241 were sent out from North America alone on foreign mission assignments. But by no means does this tell the whole story of what is being done the world around, for in many lands the nationals now operate their own schools to train their own youth for Christian service — and many of these lands have become "home bases" from which hundreds of workers have gone out to service abroad.

Seventh-day Adventists operate the world-wide radiobroadcast of The Voice of Prophecy (besides *many* local broadcasts), and a network television program called Faith for Today. These programs are widely recognized as of the highest character; and in connection with the principal ones Bible Correspondence Schools are maintained, through which hundreds of thousands are led in systematic study of the Bible.

To spread the Word of God by the printed page, the denomination operates 43 publishing houses in 37 countries, which in 1957 alone produced \$21,547,157 worth of religious literature in 214 languages. Evangelistic work is done orally in 573 additional languages, making a total of 787 languages in which Seventh-day Adventist work is being conducted.

These busy people have long recognized their obligation to care for the world's sick and suffering, and to promote healthful living. To this end they now operate 197 hospitals, sanitariums, clinics, and dispensaries, manned by approximately 400 physicians and 2,500 nurses. In some parts of the world Seventh-day Adventist health institutions provide literally the *only* medical help that is available to the native people. Dedicated doctors and nurses travel on foot, by dog sled, on horseback, in their own cars or airplanes, by motor launches, and every other available means to reach those who need their ministry of healing. They are day by day writing a modern Book of Acts that is truly remarkable, and some of their exploits have been given much publicity and recognition.

Seventh-day Adventists who are not able to devote full-time effort to the work of the church, believe it is their privilege and duty to give both financial and moral support to those who can. The fact that Adventists really believe in the work they are doing has made them the highest in *per capita* giving in all the Christian world. The 1957 average per capita for every member of the church — men, women, and children, *in all the world*, was \$72.00. Considering the level of income in many of the world's less-privileged countries, this is truly a remarkable accomplishment.

This record of giving has aroused the interest and sometimes the envy of many churchmen of other faiths. Why do Seventh-day Adventists give so liberally to their church? Could not the answer be that their giving is the measure of their *belief* in the message they have to give, and of their *dedication* to the God they worship?



CATHEDRAL FILMS

Day by day, year in and year out, Seventh-day Adventists carry their message to the ends of the earth. Many among them have been self-supporting missionaries, carrying professional skills into under-privileged nations which gladly welcomed their temporal help — and thereby were made willing to listen to the everlasting gospel they preached!

A most interesting advance has recently come to my attention, by which a knowledge of the Bible is now being carried to many language groups whom it has heretofore been difficult if not impossible to reach. An ingenious Seventh-day Adventist saw a portable phonograph that had been produced to play portions of the Scriptures in different languages which do not yet have the Bible in printed form. This man carefully examined the machine, and felt that it was too complicated, too heavy, and too expensive. He set to work to simplify it, in which project he received help from the Radio Corporation

of America and from the Columbia Broadcasting Company, both of which organizations had been working toward something similar. Still further, he secured the cooperation of a plastic manufacturing concern in the South.

Today, a very simple phonograph is available at a cost of less than one dollar. It weighs four ounces, is operated by a hand crank, and its speed is controlled by an ingenious "governor." It is made of one of the lightest yet strongest known plastics, and is so simple as to be almost indestructible. It can be bought, together with a set of eight 45-rpm records, and sent to any place in the world for about \$5.00. For some two years now, native evangelists in remote areas have been using this machine most successfully among tribes whose languages have heretofore made the gospel inaccessible to them. Many conversions have already been reported.

The *time* of our Lord's return depends in part on the faithfulness and zeal of His followers in spreading the gospel. Will not you who read these words, join us in this last tremendous effort to save men and women? to *finish* the work of God in the earth? Each one who joins in the effort will share in the exceeding great rewards that Jesus will bring with Him when He comes to receive His own.

What Manner of Persons?

CHRIST *will* soon return to this earth — when all the prophetic signs have been fulfilled. Let us look at them again briefly in panorama, and see whether they have been or are being fulfilled.

Jesus said: “And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: . . . For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.” Matthew 24:6, 7. What does history testify? One hardly need elaborate, yet it is startling to read that “about twenty-three limited wars or war situations have been recorded since 1945.”¹ We all remember World War II and the Korean War, but we forget others that may not have affected us directly. Yes, this sign has been and is being abundantly fulfilled.

“And there shall be famines, and pestilences.” Matthew 24:7. Again history testifies in no uncertain terms. After World War I great famines took lives by the millions — three million in China alone, and the post-war famine in Russia has been called the greatest of all history. Again following World War II famine has killed multiplied millions. In 1943 the *New York Times* reported that in the province of Bengal, India, people were dying of famine and related diseases at the rate of 100,000 *per week*! Nor is famine a spectre of the past alone, as indicated in the earlier chapter dealing with expanding populations. A recent magazine report stated that the Ford Foundation has just warned India: “Unless a drastic turn is taken, by 1966 the birth rate will have so outstripped food production that literally millions may starve to death in a crisis that ‘no conceivable program of imports or rationing can meet.’”²

“And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. . . . And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” Matthew 24:10,

12. Even in our own United States we see fulfillment of this prophecy. The FBI reports that since 1950 the crime rate here has increased four times as fast as the population! In the last year for which we have complete records, Americans committed 2,796,400 *recorded* crimes. Crime costs America twelve times as much as do its churches.

“And there shall be signs . . . men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth. . . .” Luke 21:25, 26. Men have cause to be fearful of the tensions and hatreds they themselves have created through selfishness and folly. Nations which once ruled vast areas of the earth, now fear for their own survival in face of the rising tide of anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism. Men are also fearful of their own creations. Since World War II men of science have recklessly spread radioactive materials in the skies without knowing what might be the consequences on vegetable, animal, and human life. Today, much of the very food we eat is radioactive, up to more than six times the “safe level” — though no one knows certainly what is actually the safe level. “At one minute after a nuclear explosion . . . the radioactivity . . . is comparable with that of a hundred thousand tons of radium.”³ This could make an area uninhabitable for years.

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake.” Matthew 24:9. Thirty years ago most people would have found it difficult to believe that this prophecy — and others like it — *could* ever be fulfilled in modern history. No one who knows the world as it is today will *doubt* for a minute that this prophecy can be fulfilled. Indeed, it is being fulfilled. The gross area of the world in which men are free to worship God as they believe right is far less today than it was even before World War II. More than one third of the world’s population—above 900,000,000—are now dominated by communism. The recent Tibetan uprisings were actually in revolt against religious oppression. Nor is communism the only

power that is persecuting those who worship in a way different from its own; as witness the situation of Protestant evangelicals in Spain, Portugal, and some South American countries.

"Many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and shall deceive many." Matthew 24:5. Statistical evidence is hardly necessary here. False Messiahs have been appearing, ever since Jesus ascended into the heavens. Each has attracted followers — in some instances only a few hundred, multiplied thousands in others. It is amazing that, while most of these sects disintegrate after a brief life-span; some continue on even after their wild predictions have been proven false. Here, in the very gullibility of these unfortunate people, we have the fulfillment of a prophecy concerning the time of the end: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and *shall be turned unto fables.*" 2 Timothy 4:3, 4. (Italics supplied.)

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light." Matthew 24:29. We have already in an earlier chapter traced the fulfillment of this specific and definite prophecy, with reliable historic evidence.

"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14. Think of this: The Baptist Missionary Society was first organized in 1792 — twelve years after the darkening of the sun. The first foreign mission society in America was organized in 1808, and it was another four years before the first American left these shores on a foreign mission assignment. David Livingstone was not even born until 1813. Yet today the gospel has belted the globe, and countries that once were mission lands now serve as home bases from which missionaries are sent to other lands.

Jesus' coming is sure, and it is near at hand. "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his

branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it [the end of the world] is near, even at the doors. . . . Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. . . . Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:32, 33, 42, 44.

Why did God give the prophecies? For one reason, so that as we see them fulfilled our faith in the Bible will be strengthened. But most compelling, that His people might have time to prepare for Jesus' return. During my ministry I have observed that those who truly believe in Jesus' *soon* coming are most zealous to live and work to please Him. "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat." 2 Peter 3:11, 12.

That question should concern you and me — all of us: "What manner of persons ought ye to be?" Have you thought how your life is answering that question? You should — immediately, because time is short.

It is no coincidence — rather, it is according to the will and wisdom of God — that all these prophecies find culmination in our day. Above all generations of the earth, we can witness to the foreknowledge of God as exhibited in the fulfillment of prophecy. What worse than folly, then, if we fail to profit by this weight of evidence! Let us feed upon the Word of God until we *know* what is His will for us.

But perhaps you find the Bible difficult to understand. Yet it need not be so. Permit me to recommend to you the Voice of Prophecy correspondence courses. There is one for *you* — whether you are a junior boy or girl, a senior youth, an adult, or a "senior citizen."

I have personally known H. M. S. Richards, speaker of The Voice of Prophecy, for many



years. He is a sound and careful student of the Bible, as well as a radio minister of outstanding ability. But more than these, he believes and practices what he preaches. The Voice of Prophecy is a non-profit organization. Its speaker and staff have always worked for small salaries and lived in humble circumstances. Many of them could, in other lines of endeavor, earn many times what they receive at The Voice of Prophecy; but they are where they are, doing what they are doing, because they feel that is where they can best serve God and their fellow men. Instructors of such dedication are safe spiritual leaders. You will make no mistake by enrolling in your choice of the courses they offer.

The Voice of Prophecy itself is, I believe, a part of the fulfillment of the gospel commission. It exists for the sole purpose of preparing people for the coming of Christ. May it help *you* to prepare for that blessed event, is my prayer.

¹Hanson W. Baldwin, "Limited War," *Atlantic Monthly*, May 1959.

²"Facing Starvation," *Time*, May 4, 1959, p. 20.

³Baldwin, *op. cit.*

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